

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES ALLYN BATTERTON,

Defendant.

CR 22-51-M-DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is United States Magistrate Judge Kathleen L. DeSoto's Findings & Recommendation Concerning Plea. (Doc. 27.) Because neither party objected, they are not entitled to *de novo* review. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Therefore, the Court reviews the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc.*, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” *United States v. Syrax*, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

James Allyn Batterton is charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count I), one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation

of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count II), and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i) (Count III). (Doc. 2.) Judge DeSoto recommends that this Court accept Mr. Batterton's guilty plea as to Count II after he appeared before her pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. The Court finds no clear error in Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation and adopts them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation (Doc. 27) is ADOPTED in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Batterton's motion to change plea (Doc. 21) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that James Allyn Batterton is adjudged guilty as charged in Count II of the Indictment.

DATED this 26th day of January, 2023.



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Dana L. Christensen  
United States District Court